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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: "A Collar for the Cutworm"....Information from Victory Garden Headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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With apologies to the man who first said, "The early bird gets the worm", let's change his words of wisdom a bit. After all, we don't want to call ourselves birds, do we? But it is the forethoughted gardener who gets the worm. And in this case, I'm thinking about the cutworm.

The garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture tell us that one of the first pests we're likely to have in our garden is the cutworm.

It attacks plants that have just been transplanted...often the very night after you've put them out. It also goes for some other plants, particularly sweet corn, a day or two after they've come up. It eats right through them.

But, say the specialists, we can do something about the cutworm.

In a small garden, paper collars around the plants provide protection. You can easily make the collars. Take a piece of paper about the size and stiffness of a penny postcard. Roll it into a cylinder about four times bigger than the main stem of the plant...and put it around the plant about an inch into the ground. It should be about two inches above the surface of the soil. You may have to pin or tie the collar to make it hold its shape.

If your garden is so large that using collars is impractical, you can fight the cutworm with cutworm bait. It's made with a bran base....(cutworms prefer bran even to tender plants.) Spread it over the garden a day or two before you put the plants out...or put it around the plants as you transplant them. For directions on making the bait...see your county agricultural agent. But remember...if you do use the bait....it's poison. Keep it out of the way of children, livestock and poultry.

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